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WATER AND ICE SUPPLIED BY INTERSTATE CARRIERS.

On January 25, 1913, the Secretary of the Treasury, under authority of an act of Congress approved February 15, 1893, promulgated the following regulation regarding the water and ice furnished to passengers by common carriers in interstate traffic:

AMENDMENT TO INTERSTATE QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

Article 3, General Regulations, is hereby amended by the addition of the following paragraph:

"Paragraph 15. Water provided by common carriers on cars, vessels, or vehicles operated in interstate traffic for the use of passengers shall be furnished under the following conditions:

"(a) Water shall be certified by the State or municipal health authority within whose jurisdiction it is obtained as incapable of conveying disease: *Provided*, That water in regard to the safety of which a reasonable doubt exists may be used if the same has been treated in such manner as to render it incapable of conveying disease, and the fact of such treatment is certified by the aforesaid health officer.

"(b) Ice used for cooling such water shall be from a source the safety of which is certified by the State or municipal health authority within whose jurisdiction it is obtained, and before the ice is placed in the water it shall be first carefully washed with water of known safety and handled in such manner as to prevent its becoming contaminated by the organisms of infectious or contagious diseases: *Provided*, That the foregoing shall not apply to ice which does not come in contact with the water which is to be cooled.

"(c) Water containers shall be cleansed and thoroughly scalded with live steam at least once in each week that they are in operation."

Many requests have been received from common carriers for instructions as to how the requirements of the regulation can best be fulfilled. Therefore, for the information of those concerned, the following instructions have been drafted:

INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE TO THE CERTIFICATION OF THE WATER AND ICE FURNISHED TO PASSENGERS IN INTERSTATE TRAFFIC.

Samples of water and artificial ice from each and every source of supply should be subjected to bacteriological and chemical examination at least once in every six months by the proper State or municipal health authority within whose jurisdiction the supply is obtained, or by other person or persons competent to make such examinations and whose results will be accepted by the State or municipal health authority whose duty it is to issue certificates. Each new crop of natural ice should be examined and certified before use.

The common carrier desiring a certificate of the State or municipal health authority within whose jurisdiction the water or ice is obtained should make application therefor.

After the necessary examinations shall have been made the certificate should be issued on the form which is appended, one copy to be delivered to the common carrier, one copy to be forwarded to the Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C., and one copy to be retained as a matter of record and for future reference.

Whenever there is an unusual prevalence of typhoid fever, dysentery, infantile diarrhea, or other water-borne disease in a locality from which common carriers receive water and ice, an additional examination of the water and ice should be made and a supplemental certificate made by the proper certifying authority and forwarded as above.

CERTIFICATE OF EXAMINATION OF WATER AND ICE FOR PASSENGERS IN INTERSTATE TRAFFIC.

This is to certify that the supplied
(water or ice)
..... at for use of pas-
(Name of common carrier.)
sengers in interstate traffic been examined and found free from organisms or
materials liable to cause disease in man.
Date of examination ¹.....
Signed.....
Title.....
Address.....
.....

NOTE.—Make certificate in triplicate. Deliver one copy to common carrier. Forward one copy to the Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C. Retain one copy for reference.

¹ Water and artificial ice should be examined at least every six months. Each new crop of natural ice should be examined and certified before use.